

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal device comprising a light source and a light diffuser comprising a thermoplastic layer incorporating organic bead-containing microvoids, said microvoids have a major axis diameter to minor axis diameter ratio of between 1.6 and 1.0, and having an integral smoothing layer on at least one surface thereof, the smoothing layer exhibiting an average thickness less than 12 microns, and wherein the diffuse light transmission of the diffuser at 500nm is at least 65% and the light transmission efficiency of the diffuser is greater than 80%.

2. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the voids have a substantially circular cross-section in a plane perpendicular to the direction of light travel and having a light transmission efficiency of at least 80%.

3. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said integral smoothing layer comprises polyester polymer.

4. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said integral smoothing layer comprises polyolefin polymer.

5. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said smoothing layer has an average thickness between 2 and 12 micrometers.

6. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic layer comprises an external surface on both sides, said smoothing layer is contained on both external surfaces ~~layers~~.

7. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said smoothing layer further comprises a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive applied to the surface of the smoothing layer.

8. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said smoothing layer has a average surface roughness of between 0.02 and 0.18 micrometers.

9. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said smoothing layer has a % light transmission of between 94 and 99.6%.

10. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said smoothing layer contains a cross linked urethane polymer coating applied to the surface of the smoothing layer.

11. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the difference in refractive index between the thermoplastic polymeric material and the microvoids is greater than 0.2.

12. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids are formed by organic microspheres.

13. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids are substantially free of scattering inorganic particles.

14. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the microvoids contain cross-linked polymer beads.

15. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the microvoids contain a gas.

16. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 where thickness uniformity across the light diffuser is less than 0.10 micrometers.

17. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the elastic modulus of the light diffuser is greater than 500 MPa .

18. (Previously presented) device of Claim 1 wherein the impact resistance of the light diffuser is greater than 0.6 GPa.
19. (canceled)
20. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said light transmission efficiency is greater than 87%.
21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)
23. (Previously presented) device of Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic layer contains greater than 4 index of refraction changes greater than 0.20 parallel to the direction of light travel.
24. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids have a average volume of between 8 and 42 cubic micrometers over an area of 1 cm².
25. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids have a average volume of between 12 and 18 cubic micrometers over an area of 1 cm².
26. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the said light diffuser has a thickness less than 250 micrometers.
27. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the said light diffuser has a thickness between 12.5 and 50 micrometers.
28. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic layer comprises polyolefin polymer.

29. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic layer comprises polyester polymer.

30. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 5 wherein said organic beads have a mean particle size less than 2.0 micrometers.

31. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 5 wherein said organic beads have a mean particle size between 0.30 and 1.7 micrometers.

32. (withdrawn) A back lighted imaging media comprising a light source and a light diffuser comprising a thermoplastic layer incorporating organic bead-containing microvoids and having an integral smoothing layer on at least one surface thereof, the layer exhibiting an average thickness less than 12 microns.

33. (canceled)

34. (withdrawn) A liquid crystal device component comprising a light source and a light diffuser comprising a thermoplastic layer incorporating organic bead-containing microvoids and having an integral smoothing layer on at least one surface thereof, the layer exhibiting an average thickness less than 12 microns wherein said smoothing layer is in optical contact with a brightness enhancement film.